

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 are pending.

The insertion of "directly" before "fastened" in claims 1, 3 and 4 is supported by Fig. 1, 6 and 8, respectively.

In claim 1, the insertion of "said sealant chamber having a transverse cross section comprising left and right ends, wherein the left end of the transverse cross section is proximate the left end of the inner liner, and the right end of the transverse cross section is proximate the right end of the inner liner" is supported by Fig. 1.

In claim 3, the insertion of "said sealant chamber containing the sealant, which sealant directly contacts the tread" is supported by Fig. 6.

The replacement of "characterized in that" with "wherein" and the deletion of the reference numerals from claims 1-4 are cosmetic and should not narrow the scope of the amended claim recitations.

### **Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph**

Claims 1-4 were rejected as vague because the Examiner was not certain whether the liner materials having "anti-sticking properties" refer solely to a combination of an inner liner of butyl rubber and outer liner of natural rubber, or combinations of any materials that are inherently anti-sticking. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The specification does not limit "materials having anti-sticking properties" to a combination of an inner liner of butyl rubber and outer liner of natural rubber. Thus, applicants submit that it would have been clear to one skilled in the art that "materials having anti-sticking properties" are not limited to the combination of butyl rubber and

natural rubber. Rather, one skilled in the art would have interpret "materials having anti-sticking properties" to mean any materials that do not stick to a surface when in contact with the surface.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as vague because the Office Action asserts that it was not clear that the liners are directly fastened to the tire components they attach to as shown in the Figures. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3 and 4 by inserting "directly" before "fastened" as supported by Figures 1, 6 and 8, respectively.

Withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejections is requested.

#### Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 103

I. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as obvious over Chemizard (US 4,286,643) in view of Laube (US 5,426,147). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Chemizard discloses a tire having a ribbon of self-sealing lining 6 having an inner lining 5 and an outer lining strip 21, 31, 41 or 51 (Fig. 1-6). The Office Action mischaracterizes reference numeral 6 as the outer lining. As the ribbon is wound around the inner part of the tire (on the inner surface of the tread of the tire), there are partitions between adjacent portions of the ribbon so the self-sealing lining 6 has a partitioned appearance in the transverse cross section of the tire (see column 1, lines 28-32, 58 and 59; column 2, lines 60-62).

One end of the ribbon 6 is located at one shoulder 3 of the tire and the other end of the ribbon 6 is located at the other shoulder 3' of the tire (column 1, lines 28-32 and Fig. 1; column 2, lines 52-56). Chemizard does not specifically disclose that the ends of the ribbon 6 is located at the side walls 4,4' of the tire.

Unlike claims 1 and 2, Chemizard does not disclose that the outer lining strip 21, 41 or 51 has anti-sticking properties. Chemizard merely discloses that the outer lining strip 21 or 41 is formed of an elastomeric mixture (column 1, lines 65-66; column 2, line 37). However, in claim 1, the left and right ends of a transverse cross section of the sealant chamber are proximate the left and right ends, respectively, of the inner liner as supported by Figure 1. In the tire of Chemizard, none of the transverse cross section of the ribbon 6 has a left end proximate the left end of the inner lining strip **and** the right end of the transverse cross section proximate the right end of the inner lining strip (see Fig. 3-6). Laube fails to cure the deficiencies of Chemizard because Laube does not show that the left and right ends of a transverse cross section of a sealant chamber are proximate the left and right ends, respectively, of an inner liner. Thus, Chemizard in view of Laube would not have rendered obvious claims 1 and 2.

II. Claims 3 and 4 were rejected as obvious over Sweet (US 3,048,509) in view of Laube. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Sweet discloses a tire having a sealing strip containing a self-sealing composition in layers 2 and 5 (column 3, lines 27-28; Fig. 2 and 4). The self-sealing layer 2 is sandwiched between and enclosed by layers 1 and 3 made of a vulcanized synthetic rubber, with the edge portions of bottom layer 1 and middle layer 3 united (column 3, lines 16-21; Fig. 4). The self-sealing layer 5 is sandwiched between and enclosed by layers 3 and 6 made of a vulcanized synthetic rubber, with the edge portion of top layer 6 united with a portion of middle layer 3 (column 3, lines 20-28; Fig. 4). The laminated sealing strip containing layers 2 and 5 can be applied to the interior of an unvulcanized tire casing (column 3, lines 1-2). Subsequent vulcanization firmly bonds the vulcanized

layers 1, 3 and 6 to the layers 2 and 5 (column 3, lines 31-37).

The secondary reference, Laube, was relied upon to show that butyl rubber is an airtight elastomer.

In claim 3, the sealant directly contacts the tread of the tire body. In contrast, in the tire of Sweet, the sealing composition in self-sealing layer 5 does not directly contact the tread of the tire body. Rather, the sealing composition in layer 5 is separated from the tread of the tire body with the top layer 6. Thus, Sweet in view of Laube would have failed to render obvious claim 3.

Regarding claim 4, the top layer 6 in the tire of Sweet can be interpreted to correspond to the first outer liner in claim 4. The middle layer 3 of Sweet corresponds somewhat to the second outer liner in claim 4. The bottom layer 1 of Sweet corresponds to the inner liner in claim 4. Claim 4 should not have been rejected as obvious over Sweet in view of Laube because claim 4 differs from Sweet in view of Laube in that the sealant chamber 2 of Sweet is not defined by an outer liner that is directly fastened to the tread of the tire body (the middle layer 3 of the sealant chamber 2 of Sweet is not directly fastened to the tread of the tire body).

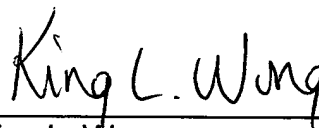
Withdrawal of the obviousness rejection of claims 3 and 4 is requested.

Conclusion

In view of the amendment and the above reasoning, applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is believed in order.

In the event that the filing of this paper is not deemed timely, applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any petition fee for the extension of time and any other fees that may be required in relation to this paper can be charged to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Docket No. 107348-00178.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "King L. Wong". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

King L. Wong  
Registration No. 37,500

Customer No. 004372  
ARENT FOX KINTNER PLOTKIN & KAHN, PLLC  
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.,  
Suite 400  
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339  
Tel: (202) 857-6000  
Fax: (202) 638-4810

Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time

KLW:elp

238696\_1.DOC